

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3005

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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BEIRUT FOR RCAA DWOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SY

SUBJ: CIVAIR: SYRIAN CONCERN RE INTERIM LEASED BOEING
727 AIRCRAFT

REF: DAMASCUS 1023

1. SUMMARY. SYRIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL JAMIL HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR TO INQUIRE RE BOEING'S PROGRESS IN FINDING 727'S TO LEASE TO SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES (SAA), AS DELAY IN FLYING LEASED 727'S WILL DELAY SAA TRAINING IN ANTICIPATION DELIVERY OF ITS OWN 727'S. REQUEST DEPT AND/OR BEIRUT CONSULT WITH BOEING AS OUTLINED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER, GENRAL NAJI JAMIL, WHO ALSO HEADED UP SPECIAL SARG AIRCRAFT SELECTION COMMITTEE AND SIGNED SYRIAN CONTRACT WITH BOEING FOR THREE 727'S AND TWO 747SP'S LAST NOVEMBER, MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR MARCH 15 HIS CONCERN THAT BOEING HAS NOT YET LOCATED 727'S FOR LEASE TO SYRIA. PURPOSE OF LEASED 727'S IS TO GIVE SAA EXPERIENCE ON THIS AIRCRAFT BEFORE ITS OWN 727'S ARE DELIVERED. JAMIL WORRIED THAT SAA'S TRAINING SCHEDULE WILL SLIP SERIOUSLY

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IF AIRLINE DOES NOT OBTAIN LEASED 727'S SOON. AMBASSADOR

PROMISED JAMIL HE WOULD ASK BOEING WHAT PROSPECTS WERE FOR LEASING 727'S TO SAA.

3. COMMENT: BOEING HAS NOT DISCUSSED WITH US ITS PLANS FOR ARRANGING LEASE OF AIRCRAFT TO SAA. AS REPORTED REFTEL, AMERICAN FIRM AEROAMERICA INC. INFORMED EMBASSY MARCH 17 IT WAS DISCUSSING WITH SAA WET-LEASING OF 707'S TO REPLACE CURRENTLY LEASED BRITISH AIR TOURS TWO 707'S. AEROAMERICA REP CULY IMPLIED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SAA HAD BOEING'S BLESSING. WHEN ECONOFF ASKED ABOUT 727'S, CULY SAID HE WAS DISCUSSING 707'S ONLY. (FROM LOCAL CIVIL AVIATION TRADE WE HAD HEARD LATE IN 1974 THAT LEASING FROM LUFTHANSA WAS ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING MORE ON THIS POSSIBILITY.)

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPT AND /OR RCAA BEIRUT COULD SUPPLY RE BOEING'S PLANS TO FIND 727'S FOR LEASE TO SAA SO THAT AMBASSADOR MAY REPLY TO GENERAL JAMIL.

B. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFORMATION IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FROM BOEING REGARDING DETAILS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE EXPECTED TO BE DEVELOPED WITH SAA, E.G., NUMBER AND TIMING OF PERSONNEL ENVISAGED, POSSIBILITY OF FAMILIES ACCOMPANYING AND OTHER SUCH DETAILS THAT WILL RELATE TO GROWING FOREIGN AND AMERICA COMMUNITY IN DAMASCUS AND PRESSURE FOREIGN RESIDENT GROWTH IS PUTTING ON LIMITED RESOURCES SUCH AS HOUSING AND SCHOOLS.
MURPHY

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